A Retrospective Analysis of Clinical Utilization between Patients who used Telemedicine and those who did not in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Clinics during the COVID-19 Pandemic

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**Objectives:** In response to COVID-19, telemedicine became widely utilized across the US. Thus, our study objectives were to:
1. Describe demographics
2. Examine differences in clinical utilization between musculoskeletal patients who used telemedicine and office visits in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation during the pandemic.

**Design:**
COVID-19 Pandemic: April 1 to June 30 2020 (n = 3,273)

- Telemcine (n = 1,099)
- Office Visit (n = 1,175)
- Both Telemedicine and Office Visits (n = 248)
- Telemcine First (n = 216)
- Office Visit First (n = 32)

**Conclusions & Next Step:**
- ED and UC Visits usage was not different, but hospitalizations was higher in the telemedicine group.
- More complex cases in telemedicine group
- Expanding date range to 180-days, so we can have more numbers in the utilizations and understand how confounders may be affecting results.

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**Results: Objective 1: Describe Demographics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>63.0%</td>
<td>85.4%</td>
<td>55.7±15.2 y.o.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60.5%</td>
<td>89.4%</td>
<td>53.8±16.0 y.o.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62.9%</td>
<td>87.6%</td>
<td>55.7±12.1 y.o.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**p = 0.776**

**Objective 2: Examine Differences in Clinical Utilization**

**Prescriptions:**

- **Diuret:**
  - 19.3%
  - 15.5%
  - 19.9%
  - p=0.035

- **Immuno.:**
  - 2.9%
  - 1.2%
  - 1.4%
  - p=0.012

- **MF:**
  - 11.5%
  - 8.4%
  - 10.4%
  - p=0.043

- **Pred:**
  - 10.4%
  - 8.3%
  - 10.9%
  - p=0.098

- **Opioids:**
  - 43.6%
  - 24.5%
  - 50.7%
  - p=0.000

- **SMR:**
  - 38.3%
  - 31.7%
  - 33.5%
  - p=0.010

- **AntiDep:**
  - 43.0%
  - 37.2%
  - 48.9%
  - p=0.002

**Clinical Utilization (30-Days Post-Appointment):**

- **ED Visits:**
  - 1.4%
  - 0.6%
  - 1.6%
  - p = 0.000

- **UC Visits:**
  - 0.9%
  - 1.2%
  - 0.1%
  - p = 0.181

- **Hospital Visits:**
  - **26.0%**

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